GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:5216
ANSWERED ON:29.04.2002
HIGHER GROWTH IN AGRICULTURE
T.T.V. DHINAKARAN

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the major recommendations of the Steering Group on Agriculture in respect of achieving higher growth in agriculture;

(b) whether the views of State Governments have been obtained; and

(c) it so, the reaction of the Government thereon?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV)

(a) to (c): The major recommendations of the `Steering Group on Agriculture and Allied Sectors are given as follows:-

Policy Reforms:

? Unleashing the untapped potential of major farming systems through integrated packages of technologies, services including inputs like seeds, and public policies;
? Increasing public sector investment in Agriculture;
? Thrust on minor irrigation development in Eastern Region;
? Removal of movement of restrictions on all agricultural produce;
? Maximizing the benefits of the existing infrastructure;
? Blending traditional and frontier technlologies;
? Mainstreaming gender consideration in agricultural research and curricula; Technological Empowerment of women in Agriculture;
? Adoption of Farming System Approach in Research and Education;
? Redeployment of subsidies affecting adversely on the natural resources;
? Restructuring and retooling Extension Services for an era of precision farming;
? Allowing Cooperatives to function as purely commercial bodies;
? Community/Group collateral and the trees on farmers land could also be considered as collateral in granting credit;
? Promotion of alternate and mega-markets, especially near big cities and metro poly;
? Implementation of the recommendations on marketing by the Committee headed by Shri Shankar Lal Guru;
? Emphasis on Organic Farming Zones;
? Thrust on Agro-forestry and Tree Farming and special focus on Medicinal and Aromatic Plants;
? Disease free zones in Animal Husbandry;
? Thrust on conservation of threatened breeds of live stock and improvement of breeds used for draught and pack;
? Need for an integrated approach for re-generation of grazing lands;
? Enhancing productivity and production of fishes from inland waters;
? R & D programme for enhancing production of quality fish/shrimp seed and feed;
? Diversification of activities for development of fisheries and aqua-culture;
? Thrust on low external input sustainable aqua-culture;
? Thrust on management of Deep Sea Fisheries;
? Thrust on infrastructure and post-harvest for fisheries development;

Institutional Reform:

? Accomplishing productivity revolution; quality revolution; income and livelihood revolution; and management and marketing revolution;
? Research priorities to be changed keeping in view emerging needs;
? Adoption of Farming Systems Approach in Research and Education;
? Mainstreaming gender considration in Agricultural Research and curricula; Technological empowerment of Women in Agriculture;

? Implementation of Multi-State Cooperative Societies Act by all States;
? Adoption of integrated approach for the development of natural resources;
? Identification and launching of national challenge projects on;
 - Waste-land development using Sampoorana Gramin Rozgar Yojana;
 - Agro-Aqua Farms along coastal region,
 - Deep Sea Fishing,
 - Minor Irrigation in Eastern India,
 - Technical Empowerment of Women in Agriculture,
 - Organic Farming Zones,
 - Animal Disease Free Zones.
? Promoting remunerative self-employment of educated rural youth, through;
 - Agriclinics and Agri-business Centres,
 - Public policies,
 - Community Food, Feed and Folder Banks,
? Integration of Technology Missions;
? Setting up of an Agricultural Science Commission;
? Setting up of an autonomous Crop Variety Testing Institute
? Setting up of a National Commission on Genetic Modification for food security

The Report of the Steering Group has been circulated to all States and UTs andalso to concerned nodal Central Ministries/Departments.